

Message Text

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S E C R E T PRETORIA 4552

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FROM SCHAUFLE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PFOR, RH, UK, US

SUBJECT: OTHER MEETINGS IN SALISBURY

REF: PRETORIA 4531

1. FOLLOWING ARE HIGHLIGHTS AND IMPRESSIONS OF MEETINGS
WITH OTHER GROUPS IN SALISBURY DURING OUR VISIT THERE.

2. CHIEFS: WE MET CHIEFS CHIRIAU, MANGWENDE, CHARUMBIRA,
AND MDIWENI. THEY ACCEPTED THE FIVE POINTS, WHICH SHOULD NOT
BE AMENDED, BUT WARNED AGAINST ALLOWING OUTSIDERS (READ
OTHER AFRICANS AND EXTERNAL LIBERATION GROUPS) PLAY AN
IMPORTANT ROLE IN THE NEGOTIATIONS. THEY SAID GREATEST
ECONOMIC NEED IS TO OPEN COUNTRY TO FOREIGN CAPITAL TO
PROVIDE JOBS AND BUILD SCHOOLS. THEY ARE DEEPLY CONCERNED
ABOUT THE ROLE OF THE CHIEFS IN AN INDEPENDENT ZIMBABWE
BECAUSE THEY ASSUME, UNDOUBTEDLY CORRECTLY, THAT THEIR
POSITION WOULD DETERIORATE. MY OUTSTANDING IMPRESSION WAS
THAT, ALTHOUGH THEY WERE REASONABLY ARTICULATE, THEY SEEMED
ALMOST PROGRAMMED.

3. RHODESIA PARTY. TIM GIBBS AND (FNU) RICHARDS OF THE
OPPOSITION RHODESIA PARTY, SOMEWHAT MORE LIBERAL THAN SMITH'S
RHODESIAN FRONT, WERE A DISTINCT DISAPPOINTMENT TO BOTH THE
BRITISH AND ME. THEY SEEM TO GIVE SOME LIP-SERVICE TO A

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GREATER AFRICAN ROLE IN RHODESIA BUT ONE HAS THE FEELING THAT

THEY ARE NOT SINCERE. MOST STRIKING WAS THEIR ACCUSATION THAT THE WEST, BY BRINGING SMITH TO HIS KNEES, HAD CREATED A POWER VACUUM IN RHODESIA AND MUST HAVE A BACK-UP PLAN IF NEGOTIATIONS ARE UNSUCCESSFUL. IN SUCH A CASE THEY SAID UK SHOULD "IMPOSE" SHORT-TERM SOLUTION. ROWLANDS AND I REJECTED SUCH A THESIS AND ROWLANDS SPECIFICALLY SAID THERE IS NO POSSIBILITY THAT UK WOULD OR COULD IMPOSE A SOLUTION. ONE INTERESTING PIECE OF INFORMATION FROM GIBBS WAS THAT HE HAD FIVE SEPARATE REPORTS THAT RHODESIAN FRONT REPRESENTATIVES IN PARTY MEETINGS ARE SAYING THAT AT THE END OF TWO YEARS A NEW CONSTITUTION WILL BE VOTED DOWN AND THERE WILL BE A RETURN TO THE STATUS QUO ANTE.

4. CENTER PARTY. THIS GROUP WAS COMPOSED OF MESSRS FOGGIN (EXECUTIVE SECRETARY) AND DERCHAND AND THE MRS. MITCHELL AND ROONEY. SOMEWHAT FUZZY DO-GOODERS, THEY CAME THROUGH MORE SYMPATHETICALLY THAN RHODESIA PARTY REPRESENTATIVES. THEY WERE CONCERNED THAT IF WHITES WERE ONLY REPRESENTED IN NEGOTIATIONS BY RHODESIAN FRONT MEMBERS THE CHANCES FOR A DEADLOCK WERE ENHANCED. THERE WOULD BE GREATER CHANCE OF SUCCESS IF MORE MODERATE WHITES WERE INCLUDED. THEY ADMITTED THAT PRESENCE OF SMITH GIVES WHITES A SENSE OF SECURITY BUT HE SHOULD NOT BE CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL OF STATE. A MORE NEUTRAL PERSON WOULD BE PREFERABLE. THEY AGREE THAT THE APPOINTMENT OF AN AFRICAN TO THE SECURITY MINISTRIES WOULD CAUSE A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE AMONG WHITES WHILE A RHODESIAN FRONT DIE-HARD WOULD HAVE SAME EFFECT AMONG BLACKS. THEY SUPPORT MODERATE WHITES--SUCH AS ROY WELENSKY OR GARFIELD TODD--FOR SUCH POSTS.

5. WE MET WITH GROUPS OF BUSINESS AND AGRICULTURAL LEADERS--JOHN STRONG, NATIONAL FARMERS UNION; M. DAFFY, ASSOCIATED CHAMBERS OF COMMERCE; L. GALLON, ASSOCIATION OF INDUSTRIES; G. DOWARD, TOBACCO MANUFACTURERS; AND C. GIBSON, CHAMBER OF MINES. PREDICTABLY THEY WERE CONCERNED ABOUT WHAT THEY CALLED THE "TRUST FUND" AND REPORTS THAT US CONGRESS WOULD REFUSE TO VOTE NECESSARY FUNDS. WE EXPLAINED IN GENERAL TERMS SOME OF THE IDEAS BEHIND THE FINANCIAL ARRANGEMENTS AND I TRIED TO REASSURE THEM ABOUT CONGRESSIONAL ATTITUDE WHICH NOT YET FIXED. THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY INTERESTED IN ARRANGEMENTS WHICH WOULD PERMIT THEM TO STAY ON IN RHODESIA,

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STATING THAT THE TWO-YEAR INTERIM PERIOD WOULD BE CRITICAL IN REASSURING WHITES IN THIS REGARD. THEY WERE ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT WHITE BACKLASH, IF THINGS TURNED SOUR, WHICH COULD RESULT IN "SCORCHED-EARTH" MENTALITY. BACKED BY ROWLANDS, I SAID THIS WAS UNCERTAIN PERIOD WHICH WOULD REQUIRE THEM TO KEEP THEIR NERVE AND DEMONSTRATE THEIR WILLINGNESS TO TRY TO MAKE IT WORK. THIS KIND OF TALK SEEMED TO HAVE A GOOD EFFECT WHICH WILL PROBABLY BE DISSIPATED IN TIME.

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